

THE TOKEN HUNTER



A publication of the *National Utah Token Society*
6143 Rainy Lane, Murray, UT 84107

Dedicated to the collection, recording and preservation of tokens and medals

FEBRUARY SPEAKER

HARDROCK RICK FARMER will be the speaker at the meeting this month.

As most of you know, Hardrock is the owner of HARDROCK RICK'S store at 4419 South 2950 East, Salt Lake City, Utah. He sells all your prospecting and treasure hunting needs. In addition to this, he is an active gold panner.

He is the third generation of gold panners

in his family. It began with his grandfather, then his father, and now himself. He currently has working claims in Idaho, and California.

Some of you may have seen him recently on PM Magazine on KUTV Channel 2. Co-starring with him was his dog Nuggett.

Hardrock will be demonstrating at the meeting the art of gold panning. He will show us how to separate concentrations and how to identify different meltings. He will also have on display cold raw nuggets from Utah, California, Arizona, and Colorado.

This should be a great meeting! Be sure you come out to this one and bring a friend.

This month's meeting is at 7 PM and falls on the 26th of February.

Hope to see you there.

* President.....John Sroka.....262-8329
* Vice President.....Glen Sidwell.....467-9566
* Treasurer.....Mary Moulton.....964-2515
* Secretary.....Robin Sidwell.....467-9566
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* Eric Jameson.....582-6461
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* Board Members.....George Wilson.....250-7052
* Frank Sommer.....262-1085
* Robert Uzelac.....375-2900
* Editors.....Ross Seely.....262-2165
* Laura Seely.....262-2165

Any news, views or information you would like to share? Give someone a call. If you are interested in writing an article or placing an ad, call Ross or Laura Seely.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

"HEY! WHAT DO YOU THINK THIS TOKEN IS WORTH?"

A good question. My thoughts usually go something like this:

1. Where is this token from?
2. Is it a Saloon Piece?
3. Does it say "good for"?
4. Is it from a ghost town?
5. Is it from Tintic Mining District?
6. How old is it?
7. How many are there around?
8. Is it co-op or dairy token?
9. Is it a transporation token?
10. Does it have a picture on it?
11. Is it a telephone token?
12. What kind of shape is it in?
13. What is it good for?
14. What county is it from?
15. Have I missed anything?

I suppose a token's true value is based on who wants it, how bad they want it, and how much money they have at the time.

I remember one time I offered \$130 for a piece. There was a couple of other people in the room with me at the time who thought I must have been on drugs or something to have offered \$130 for this token. One of them asked me why I wanted that "thing". But really, why do we collect these "things"? To look at them who would ever think they were valuable. I am glad however that I bought that particular token because it turned out to be a good one.

Knowledge is the real key to picking and collecting trade tokens. Their value is really based on how many people want them, and how much they are willing to pay. That is the bottom line! The funny thing is that I can see a token in Harry Campbell's book and offer someone more than a fair price for it and the response I get is, "It is not for sale". Even funnier is that if someone were to come up to me tomorrow and offer me a really good price for my collection I would probably say, "it is not for sale".

I am a collector. I have something unique that I enjoy. I have alot of fun going to old towns and talking with people and/or metal detecting. And least of all, I think that as a collectable, tokens are a good investment.

I remember one time I telephoned Lew Egnew, one of the really old-timers in token collecting, and he mentioned that he could remember back in the late 1960's he thoughts that \$2.00 for a rare town token was too much. Now he says that some of the really rare pieces are going for \$300 to \$400 each.

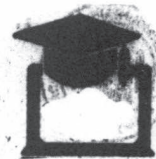
Are tokens a good investment? Who knows! Who cares! Enjoy your hobby. And remember the key for your token's future value will be how many people want it and how bad they want it. So in effect , we (the collector's) set the prices.

-John Sroka-



"I'm starting to doubt the authenticity of this 18th century map. Okay, now it says to turn south at the 7-11 store...."

EDUCATIONAL PAGE



By Bob Uzelac

A shortage of banks, rail lines, stage lines, and the geography of Utah contributed to the medium exchange referred to as tokens. Merchant competition to entice customers added to the frequent use of tokens.

Tokens had a variety of uses beyond that of medium of exchange. Credit was often given a customer with tokens. Two-for-one specials were common. For example, until prohibition a drink of hard liquor was 15 cents for a one ounce shot. For a quarter the customer could get two drinks, making each one worth 12½ cents. Often the first drink was received and change given in the form of a 12½ cent token or a dime and a 2½ cent token to be used for the next drink. This two for a quarter practice survived into the 1930's.

Essential to the life of the early farming communities was the country store. Farmers would trade their produce for other commodities they needed. They could receive coin, paper, or tokens to be used at a later time. New folks moving into the area were extended credit by receiving tokens to spend, with an understanding that a cash settlement would be due at a later date.

Some establishments had their own check cashing system, such as the Kozy Korner Bar in Salt Lake City. Checks were cashed for some tokens and hard currency, the incentive being to spend the tokens at the bar. This type of establishment had its own teller counter and window just like a regular bank.

Fruit pickers were paid a token for every tray or basket picked. They could be turned in for cash at the local bank at the end of the day. Many children were raised using tokens and had little knowledge of U.S. coin. According to the area, tokens were referred to as chits, checks, or script.

Tokens in Utah are generally made of brass and aluminum, with few done in copper or silver. Zinc is rare. People who find

tokens will think they are copper because of the reddish toning to the surface. Most cases it is brass. Aluminum is often thought to be only used after World War II, but in fact go back to the 1870's. Cardboard was used, but didn't fare well except in script form. Because of Utah's soil content, aluminum tokens often show signs of pitting. It is quite proper to clean these coins to read them clearly.

Tokens usually say "Good For" something, usually a value ranging anywhere from 2½ cents to \$1.00. A few have higher values or an odd value but not many. Some tokens wish Good Luck and some just advertise. Tokens are still a common means of advertisement.

The descendants of the early Utahns have come a long way since the days of the barter system and a wide usage of tokens. But even today the exchange system of tokens still has its place. The Salt Lake City bus lines uses tokens for fares. Has your family visited a video game arcade lately? Tokens are a common sight.

Interested in collecting tokens or just learning more about them. Call Bob Uzelac a BU Coins, 230 North University Avenue, Provo, Utah. Phone (801) 375-2900 for all your coin and stamp needs.

GLEN'S CORNER

WINTERTIME FINDS

By Glen Sidwell

Winter is finally here, and gone are the afternoons spent coin and token hunting in front yards and out in the ghost towns. Most of my time right now is spent at the library getting books on Utah history, collectibles, or going over to the Historical Society to try to find information on my token finds.

Occasionally I try to find a garage sale to go to. Every once in a while you can find a fairly good sale in which you can pick up a couple of good buys. I stopped at one in Midvale the other day and picked up a couple of identification pieces used on hats worn by the conductor or brakeman for the Union Pacific Railroad.

After talking with a lady I had met, I mentioned that sometimes people would leave antiques or throw unwanted items into the crawlspaces below buildings. She said that it would be fine to check below this building. In going to check it out, I found a metal detector could be used. Unfortunately I only found a Utah tax token.

But I did fair a little better in the way of bottles. I found an Old Pabst beer bottle, a Centaur brand bottle with the words "Chow Chow" on the upper label from the Pacific Vinegar and Pickle Works in San Francisco, California, and an old Fisher beer can. The best find was a Dr. Kilmer's Kidney, Liver, and Bladder Cure. By the looks of what was left in the bottle, it could cure anything - PERMANENTLY.

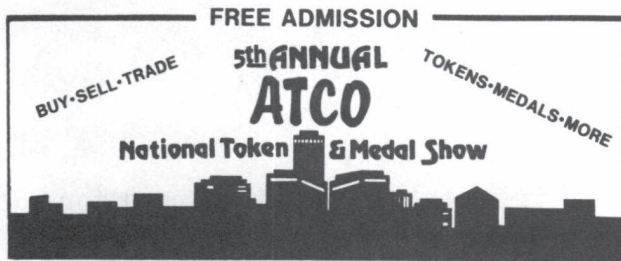
Below is a copy of the label from Dr. Kilmer's bottle. It is amazing the product sold at all after reading the directions. Anyway, if you are not afraid of a few creepy-crawlers or spider webs, these crawl spaces can usually turn up a few interesting collectibles.

About the only token I turned up this month came from a local coin shop. It was used as change when food stamps were used to purchase food. Albertson's food stores used paper script for change a few years back when food stamps first came out. The denominations used were 1¢, 5¢, 10¢, and 25¢. I only wish I had saved a few examples of these. This particular one is good for 5¢ and redeemable for eligible food stamp items only.

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SHAKE WELL BEFORE TAKING.
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THE MARKETPLACE



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HUNTER, PO BOX 71183, SLC, UTAH 84107. THE COST IS \$5.00 PER MONTH
FOR NON-MEMBERS AND ONLY \$2.50 PER MONTH FOR MEMBERS.



MAVERICKS

This month's Maverick is good for 25¢ and has B POOL M.C. on the obverse.

If you have any information on this piece, please contact Glen Sidwell at 467-9566.

As of this month, we do not have any further information on the Maverick in January. We will keep you informed of any new information.



COLLECTOR'S

By John Sroka

I started collecting Lincoln pennies when I was about eight years old. It all started with a match book that said something like "One hundred dollars reward for a full set of Lincoln cents". I thought I could make a quick hundred - Ha! Ha! I started collecting trade tokens about two years ago and now have 154 in my collection. I also collect Indian head pennies if they have ey appeal and are prices right.



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NEWS FROM LAST MONTH

By Robin Sidwell

Last month's meeting brought in a great crowd. About thirty people came out to hear author George Thompson.

Mr. Thompson has written 3 books about ghost towns of Utah. "Some Dreams Die" is a book most of us NUTS have in our library. Mr. Thompson has also written a book about Park City. His newest book, "Lost Treasures on the Old Spanish Trail", is about early history and Spanish Trails in the Utah area. In addition to telling us some of the highlights of his newest book, and some colorful stories about Utah's past, Mr. Thompson presented a slide show that was very interesting. I, like many of the other people there, found myself wanting to get right out and visit the sites depicted in the slides.

We would like to thank Mr. Thompson for speaking to our group and sharing his knowledge and insights with us.

Bryan Moulton, one of this year's three Wagonmasters, asked members to list one or more places that they would like to visit on an outing this year. Eric Jameson, Bill Turpella and Bryan will use this information to put together a schedule.

Thanks to all members who responded to Bryan's request. If you missed the January meeting but have some suggestions for outings, contact one of the Wagonmasters.

George Wilson, Chairman for the Coin and Token Show, announced that the dates for the show will be June 27 & 28th. Be sure to put these dates on your 1987 calendar. Many of you will be asked to contribute your time and talents to make sure the show is a success. Without the active participation of members, NUTS would cease to exist.

The winners of the January drawing were as follows:

George Thompson - Riley's Place 5¢
Bob Harris - Liberty Bell 5¢ in trade
Jerry Clark - Park City "Z"
Linda Franke - RM Wooley, E. Garfield
Robin Sidwell - Mills Novelty
Eric Jameson - Beaver Co-op \$1
Eric Jameson - Tintic High School #68
Bob Harris - One ounce of silver

Many members renewed their membership and completed the questionnaire at the January meeting.---Have you turned in yours? It is well worth the few minutes and few dollars that it takes to renew your membership. Why not do it now to ensure that the next month's TOKEN HUNTER arrives.

We had two visitors to the January meeting. Dan Devereux, a guest of Bob Campbell, and Dustin Dern, a guest of Glen Sidwell. It was nice to meet both of you and we hope you return to the next meeting. We would be glad to count you in among our membership.



FROM THE WAGONMASTERS

TOKEN HUNTING AT SILVER REEF

By Eric Jameson

This is the time of year when one contemplates warmer climates, with Southern Utah tokens taking on a sunnier shine. One of the area ghost towns attracting token hunters is the old mining town of Silver Reef, halfway between St. George and Cedar City.

First discovered in 1875, silver financed the town until the silver price collapsed in 1893. By 1909, the town had been deserted, with only one more period of exploration in the mid thirties by ASARCO. The original town, located to the north end of the mining area, was torn down over the years, with the only surviving building being the old Wells Fargo building, constructed in 1875.

The townsite is now leased by Wells Fargo Silver Reef Monument Inc., which plans to restore part of the town to the original state. Using \$80,000 of state money, the Wells Fargo building is now shared by a museum of Southern Utah pioneer artifacts and an art gallery. A new residential development has been made just north of the old townsite and is not part of the lease, but does cover where some of the out-laying building were located in the 1880's.

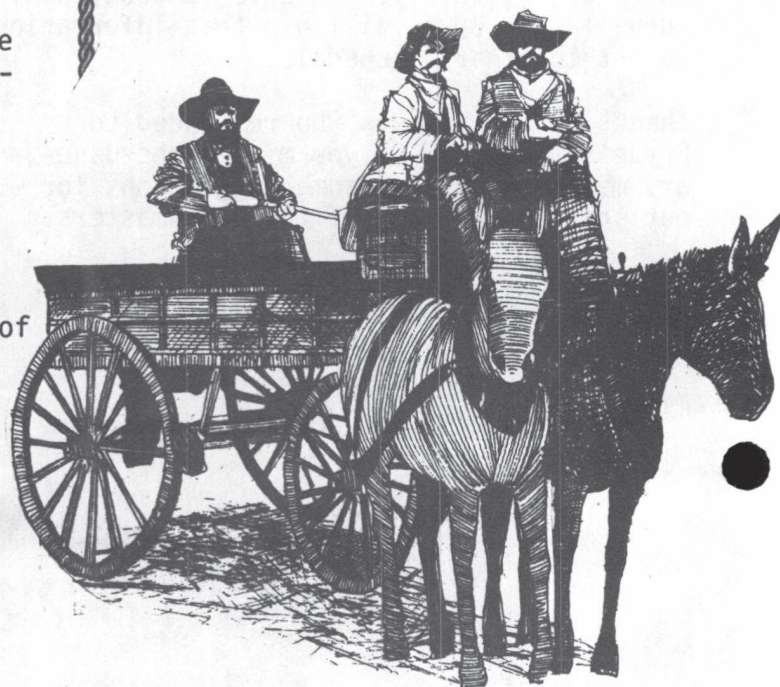
Token hunting is allowed in the old townsite only by permission and only if all old artifacts are turned over to the museum (new coins may be kept). As the University of Pennsylvania plans summer digs for the next few years, you should also mark down where all your finds were made. If you do not mind giving up any of the old coins or tokens, (improbable but not impossible), you can contact Joy Henderlinder, President of Wells Fargo Silver Reef Monument, Inc., for permission to hunt in the old townsite area at 1-879-2254, or 1-628-1114.

If any token hunter does try hunting at Silver Reef, please let us know how this somewhat special ground rule works out.

RAFFLE!

1. AB Rockville worth 5¢ in trade.
2. Talbott Bar - 12½ in trade
3. Mills Novelty
4. Burke's Smoke House - 5¢ in trade
5. BMC Pool 25¢
6. Riley's Place - 12½¢
7. Mexican 2 pesos gold piece

Be sure to come out to the next meeting to make sure you have a chance for the **GOLD**.



ENROLL NOW !

IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN TO PAY YEARLY DUES!!!!!!

We would like to know more about you and your interests. Please take a few minutes to complete the questions below when you fill out the enrollment form. This survey will be used to determine future club activities.

All individual comments are confidential. Personal reference will only be made if you grant us permission. Please be as accurate as possible in responding to each of these questions. Also, please feel free to extend any comments or suggestions that may help the club, a product line, or the hobby in general.

Simply tear this entire page from the TOKEN HUNTER and return to one of the officers or mail to; N.U.T.S., 6143 Rainy Lane, Murray, Utah, 84107.

1. Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
2. Do we have your permission to use your name as related to your responses in this questionnaire? NO _____ YES _____
SIGNATURE _____
3. How many years have you been metal detecting? _____
4. Name five types of places you metal detect. 1. _____
2. _____ 3. _____ 4. _____ 5. _____
5. What is your favorite type of hunting site? _____

6. What is the oldest coin you have found? _____
7. What is the deepest coin you have found? _____
8. What is the most valuable coin you have found? _____
9. Do you prefer to hunt alone? with a friend? or group? _____
10. Do you relic hunt? _____ If not, would you like to? _____
11. Do you do any prospecting? _____ If no, would you like to? _____
12. What percentage of your coins are pre-1940? _____
13. What percentage of your coins are pre-1910? _____
14. Have you ever asked a total stranger if you could metal detect in their yard? _____ Results? _____

15. Are you satisfied with your present efforts or would you like to work more productive areas, or areas with old-coin potential even if it meant a short trip? _____
16. How many days per week or month do you get out during the summer? _____
_____ days per _____
17. How many hours do you spend detecting per week? _____
18. How many hours do you spend reading treasure hunting magazines or books per week? _____

19. How many hours do you spend doing research on treasure hunting each week/month? _____
20. What make/model detector(s) do you have now? _____
And which one do you use the most? _____
21. What makes/models would you NOT recommend and why? _____
22. What makes/models are you the most interested in? _____
23. Which feature(s) do you feel are not necessary on today's metal detectors? _____ Why? _____
24. Which features or ideas would you suggest a manufacturer should consider adding? _____
25. What prospecting equipment do you have? _____
26. How many times a year do you go panning or dredging? _____
27. Would you like a club to offer more exciting outings? _____
28. Would you be interested in working on a club committee to do research and site evaluation? _____
29. What topic do you want to have covered in a meeting presentation? _____

E N R O L L M E N T F O R M

YEARLY DUES

PLEASE ENROLL MYSELF (\$7.50) _____ FAMILY (\$12.50) _____
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For more information please call 262-2165 or any of the members listed on the front of the TOKEN HUNTER.

MORE FROM GLEN

Last month I said I would check further into the history of the San Pedro Club, of Mercur, Utah. I have not found much, but George Thompson did send me an article he wrote on Black Horse, Nevada and a man name Don Clay. Dan Clay operated a saloon known as the San Pedro Club.

It is possible that Don Clay operated the San Pedro in Mercur and then heard of the big strike in Nevada and decided to take his business there. Or did he start up in Black Horse and move to Mercur in 1909? This would seem more likely to me. Then again, there may be no relation between the San Pedro in Blackhorse and the San Pedro in Mercur. Mabey I can find more information next month.

The following article was written by George Thompson and appeared in the Deseret Magazine.

Gold in the Snake Range!

"GOLD Strike in the Snake Range!" So shouted the headlines of the *Osceola Nevada Nugget* in March, 1906, but there was no one left in town to read them, for Osceola was deserted, except for the town drunk and a one-legged man! Nevada's last great gold rush had begun!

It all started when Tom Watkins lost his horse. For years he had prospected around the placer mining camp of Osceola, always sure that somewhere in the mountains he would find the missing lode from which the gold in Osceola's dry gulches came. His sleek black horse was his special pride, so when it strayed from camp one day in the desolate Snake Range he lost no time following its trail.

Watkins followed the black horse into the sage-covered foothills north of Osceola, where the 12,000-foot high peaks of the Snake Range suddenly break off into the rolling hills that meet the glaring wastes of Utah's salt desert. On a rocky slope, seven miles south of Mt. Moriah and eight miles northeast of Osceola, he found the black horse. And there, shining in the morning sun, almost as if the black horse has led him to it, was a rotten quartz ledge shot through and through with stringers of yellow gold! Watkins staked his claim on March 6, 1906 and what better name could he call his find than the Black Horse claim?

Watkins took samples of his discovery to an Osceola assayer, and then with Dick Millick, his partner of many prospecting trips, he hurried back to his claim, not even waiting for the results of his assay. It was lucky that they lost no time, for the assayer had a secret too good to keep. The samples were the richest he had ever seen, and within hours everyone at Osceola knew of the new strike. Overnight Osceola was deserted in the mad rush.

From all over the Great Basin they came. Prospectors, promoters, saloon keep-

CONT. →



ers, confidence men, and camp followers. Old-timers who still remembered the strikes at Tintic and the Comstock Lode came, along with young men who thought there would never be another strike. More than a hundred claims were staked the first day, and within a week there wasn't a foot of unclaimed ground within sight of the Black Horse claim.

A city of tents exploded helter-skelter in all directions, for there was little timber for cabins in the Snake Range. For the old-timers there was no time to build cabins anyway, and the young men spent every minute working the claims. Tents were hastily thrown up without plan, a small teepee pitched next to a large wall tent that housed a rough plank-bar saloon, while a half tent-half board building next door served as a general store.

Frank McIntyre staked his San Pedro claim next to Watkins' Black Horse claim, while on its other side was the Mabel claim, located by Fred Schrott and F. C. McFall. Newspapers of the day gave the new camp generous coverage. One Salt Lake City daily reported, "Gold can be traced from Mt. Moriah on the north to Jeff Davis Peak (now Mt. Wheeler) to the south. The Black Horse Mine boasts quartz in which free gold can easily be seen." The San Pedro ledge was described as being "seven feet wide and carrying values of \$400 to the ton, while ore worth less than \$100 is thrown on the waste dump!"

In July, Ely businessman Thomas O'Neill purchased an option on the Black Horse Mine for \$50,000 while the Mines Development Company of Salt Lake City obtained a bond on the San Pedro property for \$75,000. Other promising claims which changed hands for high prices included the Grasshopper, California, Lucky Boy, Cyclone and Buchanan. A Salt Lake City banking firm organized the oddly named Nil Desperandum Company.

The *Mining Review* at Salt Lake City reported, "Affairs at Black Horse are at a fever heat due to the many rich strikes being made." That prophecy was probably the understatement of the year, for only a few days later workmen at the Mabel Mine uncovered the richest gold ore ever found anywhere. The next issue of the *Mining Review* described it. "No part of the Mabel ledge can be found which doesn't show coarse wire gold. Assays show an unbelievable 5,013 ounces of gold

to the ton, \$100,275 to the ton! Armed guards have been hired to prevent high grading, and to keep curiosity seekers from taking samples, the loss of which costs the company thousands of dollars each day!"

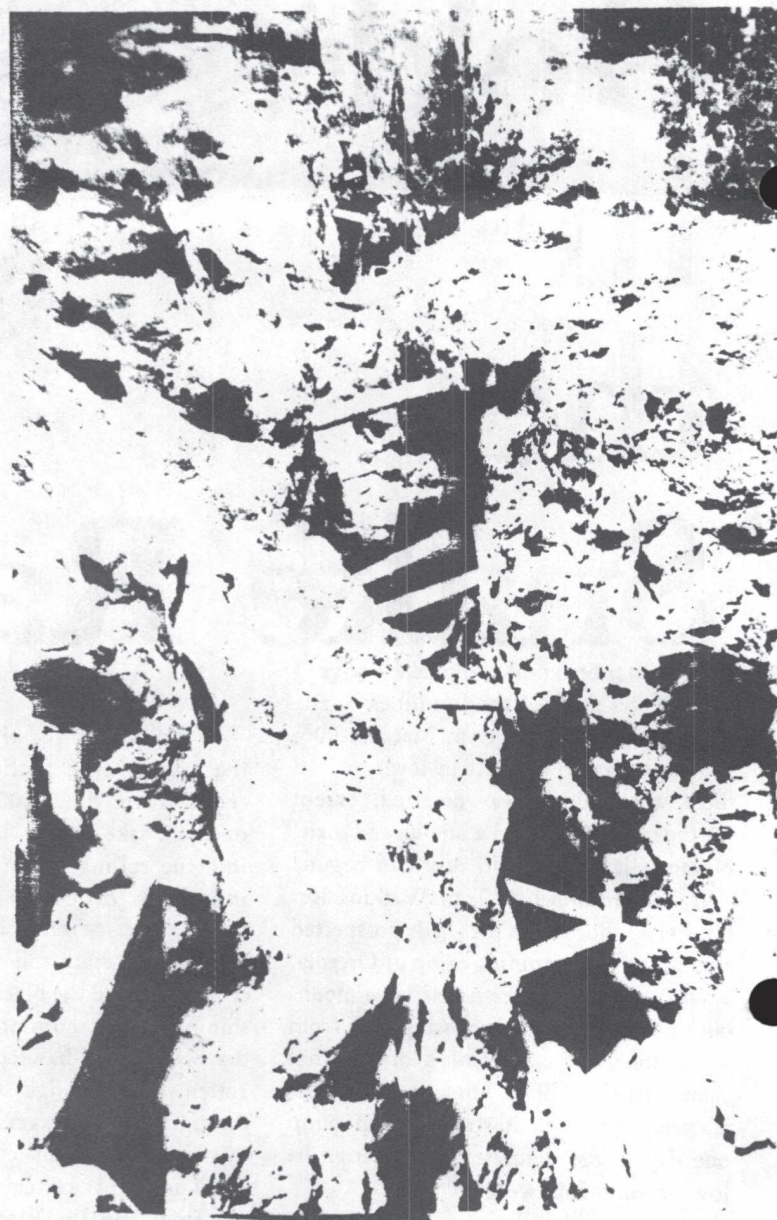
Mid-summer saw nine Black Horse business houses in new frame buildings, and it was rumored that Wells Fargo was planning to build a stone bank building. The *White Pine News* at Ely reported, "Until now a scarcity of lumber has handicapped Black Horse's growth, but now this problem has been remedied, for C. E. Hilford has started two new saw-mills in the mountains, promising a good supply of cut lumber for the town."

Among the first new buildings erected were Don Clay's San Pedro Club, which advertised "Fine liquors and beer on drought," along with Jim Mihigan's general store, which carried "A complete line of mining tools." The rapidly growing

town was granted a post office on September 17th, 1906. Building lots on main street which had sold for \$50 were bringing \$500, and promoters claimed they would soon sell for \$1,000 each! Other promoters surveyed two new townsites six miles north of Black Horse, naming them Woodlawn and Silver Creek, but they were never serious rivals for Black Horse's fame.

Winters were hard in the barren Snake Range, but even with snow laying deep in the 7,000-foot high gulches miners kept working, and more new strikes were reported. One hundred tons of "mill rock" shipped to the Whitney Mill at Osceola returned its owners \$16,000, while at the Black Horse Mine a body of high grade ore worth a dollar a pound was uncovered. Not to be outdone, the Hamilton brothers claimed they had ore stacked at their Red Chief Mine worth two dollars a pound,

CONT. →



Most of the Black Horse Mine's fabulous gold ore came from surface veins like this one. Photo courtesy of author.

hired guards to prove it!

The summer of 1907 found the following numbered among the new camp's business houses. There were four stores, Migihan's, Bacon & Courtright's, Rasmussen & Day's, and Fred McQueens. Kixmueller & Koracker operated a restaurant, while Mrs. Bliss offered "Home Cooked Meals". Rockhill & Thurber were mining engineers, W. D. Clay was Justice Of The Peace, and there were three boarding houses. Payne Brothers Wholesale Liquors supplied liquid refreshment for the town's four saloons, the San Pedro Club, Rush & O'Neills, Connor's & Huntsman's, and a place the miners called "the Bucket of Blood," operated by Fred Loper and Hyrum Young.

Until 1907 ore was hauled from the mines to the Whitney and Southern Queen mills at Osceola, but the long haul was difficult, especially during the winter. In January, 1908 stockholders of the Mabel Mine were assessed one cent a share to build a mill at Black Horse, and owners of the San Pedro Mine soon announced they had ordered a twenty stamp mill at a cost of \$55,000.

The new mills were built at Willow Patch, near the San Pedro Mine where never-failing springs promised a dependable water supply. A few of the old-timers had second thoughts about the new mills, for Black Horse's fabulous high grade ore was becoming more like "mill rock" as shafts went deeper, and when the rich ore veins pinched together they were tighter than a parson's purse!

Throughout 1908, promoters with gilt-edged stock certificates kept pushing stock prices higher, and the camp continued its dizzy pace. Then in September, 1908 the Black Horse Company issued 272,000 shares of stock to build still another new mill, and the old-timers began to nod their heads knowingly, for they had seen the same thing in too many other camps. But then, as if to discredit the doubters once and for all, a great new vein of high grade ore was discovered at the Hole Card Mine, and once more the drinks flowed free and easy across the pine plank bars.

Some might say the drinks flowed a little too freely, for the boys from the Hole Card Mine were buying drinks, and

it seems that Scotty Bertie had a few treats too many. Usually Scotty never got into much trouble when he was drinking, but then usually he stayed out of the "Bucket Of Blood!" No one seemed to know afterwards just what started it all, but not long after Shorty entered the saloon he and Fred Loper were arguing hot and heavy. Some say that Scotty reached for his back pocket, maybe for a hide-out gun, but whether he did or not never mattered, for Loper grabbed a six-shooter from behind the bar and fired. As his stunned friends watched, Scotty was hurled backward by the heavy bullet's impact, a gaping hole in the center of his chest!

Before the miners could act, Loper ran out a side door and raced away into the night. The sheriff's office at Ely was quickly notified and Sheriff Alex Baird gathered a posse to follow Loper's trail the next day. Odds at Black Horse were three to one that Loper would be caught, but maybe the odds weren't high enough, for it was a tired and empty-handed posse that straggled back into town a few days later. They had never even caught sight of Loper, and so far as anyone knows, no one else ever did either.

Maybe Scotty's killing cast a shadow of gloom over the camp, or maybe the old-timers had been right all along, but from that time on the town just seemed to die. When the oak and aspens turned color that fall the trail over Sacramento Pass was seldom without a miner leaving for some new diggings he had heard of, where ore veins were more dependable and where winters were easier. Only a few die-hards stuck it out that winter of 1909, and even they agreed that mines "were deep enough" when spring came again.

Today, a poor dirt trail turns north from U. S. 6-50 just west of Baker, Nevada but there is little left to see. Like a meteor in the western sky, Black Horse had soared for awhile, but it was more than just "a flash in the pan." While it lasted it was a real gold rush, probably the last one Nevada had. The miners who joined the mad rush there wouldn't soon forget it, or its \$100,000 a ton ore. And it's not likely either that they would ever forget Tom Watkins and his black horse!

